

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE STATEMENT ON  
PLAN AMENDMENT TO ADDRESS BYCATCH AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE ISSUES -  
REVIEW FIRST DRAFT

Ms. Yvonne de Reynier presented a review of highlights of the draft amendment 13 to the groundfish fishery management plan (FMP).

There is little scientific confirmation of the effectiveness of current measures which have been implemented to reduce bycatch. In the future, bycatch reduction provisions should be accompanied by appropriate monitoring activities to determine their effectiveness. The alternatives chosen under issue 3 (Bycatch Reduction Provisions) should reference which reporting methodologies under issue 2 (Standardized Reporting Methodologies) would be appropriate.

The Scientific and Statistical Committee questioned the potential efficacy of certain alternatives listed in the draft FMP amendment. Specifically, Alternative 2 under issue 2, a stand-alone mandatory logbook program, is unlikely to be an acceptable reporting methodology, because it would not provide verifiable estimates of bycatch. Alternatives 3 and 4 include provisions for verifying bycatch through onboard observation. Under issue 3, it is unclear how alternative 2 would provide adequate bycatch reduction, because it relies on a groundfish strategic plan which has not yet been completed.

PFMC  
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